Potential threat to the security

†4252. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proofs of some such elements in the management of Jet Airways have come to light, which may pose threat to the security of the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action in view of the potential threat to the security of the country so far, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The matter is being examined by the Government.

Free import of cereals

4253. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of indigenous cereals and oilseeds, coconut, groundnuts in various States of the country are decreasing sharply due to lifting of quantitative restrictions on the import of 714 articles under the pressure of World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) whether Government have pushed the farmers and cottage industry on the verge of destruction by giving permission of free import of these items; and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) Import restrictions are being removed as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations. The removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports of the country. The growth rate of imports was 15.3% in 1993-94, 23.1% in 1994-95, 36.4% in 1995-96, 13.2% in 1996-97, 11% in 1997-98, 15.6% in 1998-99. The process of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on most agricultural items began on 1.4.2000. The import growth rate during the year 2000-2001 was only 7.27% in rupee terms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.